

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 157205
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TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 157205

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MO, EG

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S REQUEST FOR PRESIDENT'S ADVICE
ON SOVIET-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

REF: RABAT 3654

1. THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THE EGYPTIAN-MOROCCAN CONTACTS AND KING HASSAN'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON HOW PRESIDENT SADAT MIGHT RESPOND TO THE EXPRESSED INTEREST OF THE SOVIETS IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. YOU SHOULD INFORM GUEDIRA OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE GOM OFFICIAL AS FOLLOWS, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS:

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2. WE APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF THESE CONTACTS. THE UNITED STATES HAS MAINTAINED HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIETS, KEEPING THEM ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND ENCOURAGING THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION. THE SOVIET RESPONSE HAS BEEN UNHELPFUL. THEY HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH THOSE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO HAVE ACTIVELY OPPOSED PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE,

AND THEIR PROPAGANDA ATTACKS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. THE
SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS QUITE AWARE OF STEPS THEY COULD TAKE
TO CONTRIBUTE TO AN EASING OF TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
WE DO NOT WANT TO OFFER ADVICE TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON HOW

TO HANDLE HIS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. IT IS OUR
IMPRESSION THAT PRESIDENT SADAT, LIKE KING HASSAN, IS WELL
AWARE OF SOVIET OBJECTIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
AND WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY. VANCE

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NNN

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